

## PUBLIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT EMPLOYEES

*School districts should modify this policy to fit their own procedures and chain of command.*

The board recognizes situations may arise in the operation of the school district which are of concern to parents and other members of the school district community. While constructive criticism is welcomed, the board desires to support its employees and their actions to free them from unnecessary, spiteful, or negative criticism and complaints that do not offer advice for improvement or change.

While speakers may, during public meetings, offer objective criticism of school operations and programs, the board will not hear personal complaints concerning district personnel nor against any person connected with the school system unless that complaint is an agenda item having followed the process described below. To do so could expose the board to a charge of being party to slander and would prejudice any necessity to act as the final review of administrative recommendations regarding the matter. The board president will direct the patron to the appropriate means for board consideration and disposition of legitimate complaints involving individuals.

The board firmly believes concerns should be resolved at the lowest organizational level by those individuals closest to the concern. Whenever a complaint or concern is brought to the attention of the board it will be referred to the administration to be resolved. Prior to any board consideration however, the following should be completed:

1. Matters concerning an individual student, teacher, or other employee should first be addressed to the teacher or employee.
2. Unsettled matters from (1) above or problems and questions about individual attendance centers should be addressed to the employee's building principal for certificated employees and the superintendent for support staff. At this level, if requested by the administrator, the complainant shall put the complaint in writing.
3. Unsettled matters regarding certificated employees from (2) above or problems and questions concerning the school district should be directed to the superintendent.
4. If a matter cannot be settled satisfactorily by the superintendent, it may then be brought to the board in writing. The board will follow policy 1005.01 in handling public complaints.

Cross Reference:     204.10 Agenda  
                          204.12 Public Participation at Board Meetings  
                          1005.01 Public Complaints

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_